

LESSON

4

PRACTICE WORKSHEET A

COPYMASTER

Recognizing Main Idea and Details

Directions: Read each boxed paragraph. Underline the topic sentence. Then circle the letter of the type of supporting details the writer used.

1. As a college student, Jesse Jackson took part in sit-in demonstrations in segregated restaurants. He was a director of CORE, an important group that brought students and young people into the fight for civil rights. Jackson organized a boycott of grocery stores that discriminated against black workers and vendors. He later founded a group that fought violence and drug use in city neighborhoods. Jesse Jackson was one of the most important leaders of the Civil Rights movement.
 - a. examples
 - b. sensory details
 - c. facts and statistics
 - d. reasons
2. Swimming is the best method of exercise there is. When you swim, you exercise all of your muscles, not just one set of them. The water supports your body without putting a strain on it, the way feet pounding on concrete can strain the ankles and knees of a runner. Swimming makes you control your breathing, exercising your chest and stomach muscles and building up endurance. You can swim all year round, indoors in winter and outdoors in summer.
 - a. examples
 - b. sensory details
 - c. facts and statistics
 - d. reasons
3. The concert hall, with its two large curving sections paneled in warm dark wood, was shaped like a cello. The conversations among the audience members made a pleasant buzz in my ears as we looked for our seats. On the stage, the musicians were warming up. Notes of all types—high, thin, sweet, clear, low, and booming—filled the air. An evening at Symphony Hall was always a special occasion.
 - a. examples
 - b. sensory details
 - c. facts and statistics
 - d. reasons
4. Hostility between Great Britain and the North American colonies began long before the start of the war for independence. During the French and Indian War (1754–1763), British army officers had scorned and ignored the inexperienced American officers and soldiers. The Sugar Act of 1764 assessed a tax on molasses that the Colonists had never agreed to pay. In March 1765, the passage of the Stamp Act led to riots. Parliament was forced to repeal the Stamp Act in 1765. The Boston Massacre of 1770 made it clear that the Colonies would have to go to war to secure their rights.
 - a. examples
 - b. sensory details
 - c. facts and statistics
 - d. reasons